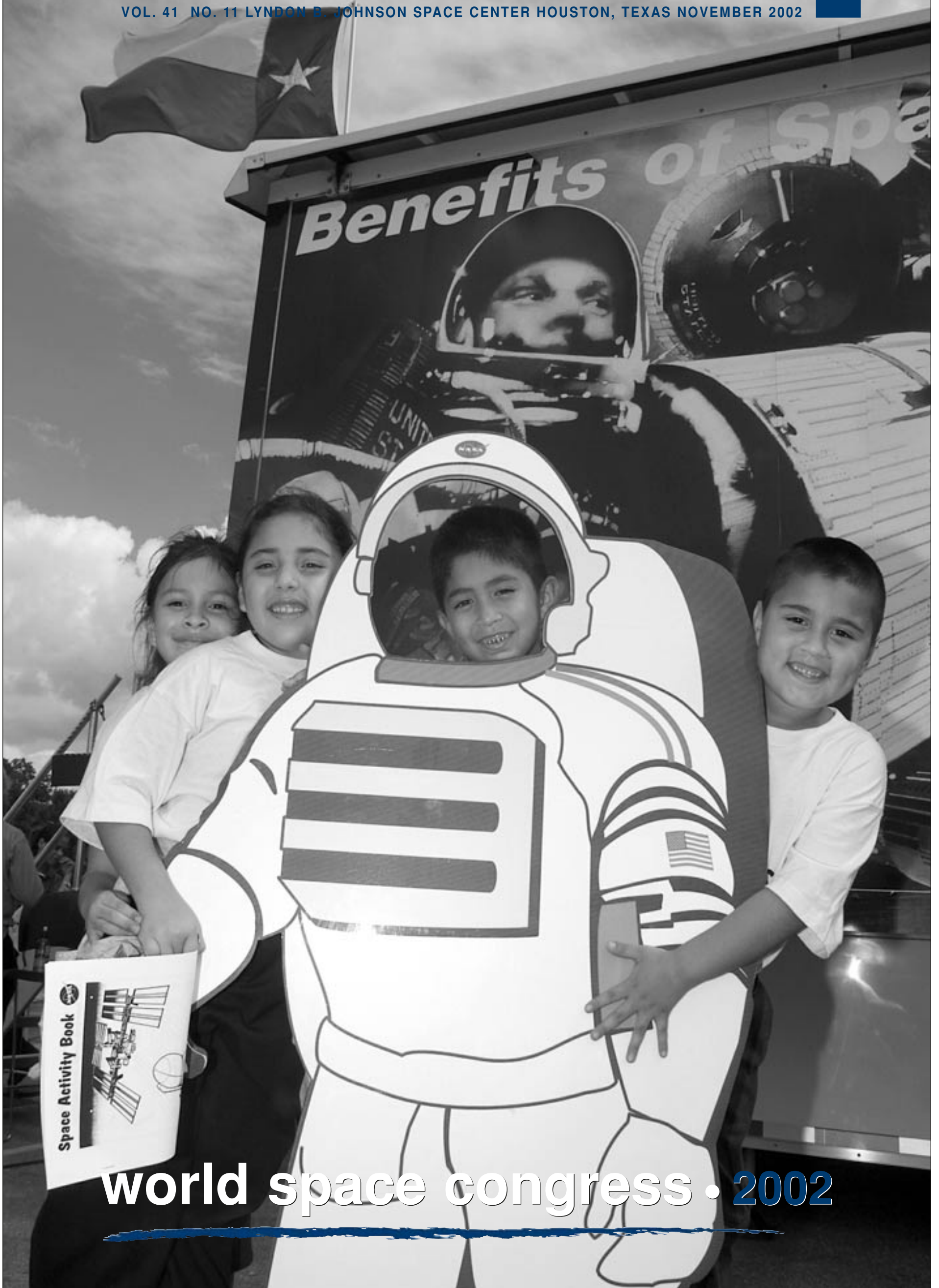


SPACE CENTER

Roundup

VOL. 41 NO. 11 LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER HOUSTON, TEXAS NOVEMBER 2002



world space congress • 2002

NASA JSC 2002e42148 Photo by James Blair

Space experts and enthusiasts from around the world came together at World Space Congress 2002 in Houston, Texas, Oct. 10-19 to discuss the current status and future vision for space exploration and commerce. Nearly 4,500 registrants attended the Congress' plenary and technical sessions and visited innovative exhibits in the NASA Village. There were also special activities for young people. The Space Rocks! Kids Festival on Oct. 18 at the University of Houston provided activities and games to inspire children in science, math and engineering. Here, some kids have fun outside the Benefits of Space trailer exhibit. **To see more photos from World Space Congress, turn to Page 4.**

JSC Town Hall Meeting addresses F2M questions

Nearly 500 Johnson Space Center employees gathered at the Gilruth Center last month to participate in the Center’s first Town Hall Meeting for the Freedom to Manage (F2M) program.

Introduced by Courtney Stadd, Chief of Staff to the Administrator, the panel of presenters included: Lt. Gen. Jefferson D. Howell, Jr., JSC Center Director; Greg Reck, NASA Deputy Chief Technologist; Greg Hayes, JSC Human Resources Director; Ann Guenther, NASA Director of the Analysis Division; Rich Beck, NASA Director of the Resource Analysis Division and Olga Dominguez, NASA Director of the Environmental Management Division.

The meeting opened with a brief video presentation featuring NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe. He explained that the purpose of the F2M Program is to challenge and contest the way government agencies do business. O’Keefe said it is that challenge that will determine if the process in place is the best possible option or whether it needs to be improved upon – or even cancelled – in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

The F2M Program was created for fiscal year 2002 in response to President Bush’s Management Agenda, which is designed to reform government by identifying areas throughout all federal government agencies that are most vulnerable to fraud, waste and abuse.

Ten years ago, the General Accounting Office found eight such areas. Today it lists 22 significant government programs that too often deliver inadequate services at excessive cost. The President’s vision for government reform is guided by three principles.

Government should be:

- ❖ Citizen-centered, not bureaucracy-centered
- ❖ Results-oriented
- ❖ Market-based, actively promoting rather than stifling innovation through competition

President Bush has called for a government that is active, but limited, that focuses on priorities and does them well. That same spirit should be brought to the work of reform. Rather than pursue an array of management initiatives, government officials have elected to identify the most glaring problems – and solve them. The President’s Management Agenda is a starting point for management reform. F2M will bring about clear expectations of improved performance and accountability.

NASA and JSC have already made great strides in their implementation of the F2M program. The panel of speakers noted that 300 suggestions have been submitted thus far, and 150 already have been reviewed or implemented by the F2M task force.

F2M successes to date that were reported included:

- ❖ Removing layers for time and attendance reports
- ❖ Delegating certain authorities back to the Center Directors
- ❖ Streamlining the recruitment reporting process
- ❖ Improving procurement and financial management

Howell closed the meeting by emphasizing to the audience that “this (F2M) is our opportunity to turn things around, and we need to take advantage of this opportunity.”

All NASA civil servant and contractor employees are encouraged to submit their thoughts and ideas on how to improve or streamline processes that will help make their jobs more efficient and more effective. Submissions can be made through the F2M Web site at <http://f2m.nasa.gov>.

New Roundup Editor named

Kendra Ceule was recently named the *Roundup*’s new Editor. Ceule will oversee the publication’s daily editorial operations. She has previously performed several duties in the Public Affairs Office, including working as a *Roundup* reporter. Ceule served as a NASA Cooperative Education student from January to May of this year, and is now an InDyne employee under the IMPASS contract.

Melissa Davis, the *Roundup*’s Managing Editor since March 2001, is now the IMPASS Communications Team Lead in the Public Affairs Office. In addition to coordinating JSC’s annual report and performing various media-relations activities, Davis will serve as the *Roundup*’s Senior Editor. Davis is a Media Services employee under the IMPASS contract.



THANKSGIVING

- ❖ Thanks for a sunny day after two weeks of rain.
- ❖ Thanks for the big Texas sky; there’s no other sky like it.
- ❖ Thanks for the mockingbird’s song.
- ❖ Thanks for a loving family and good friends.
- ❖ Thanks for hard work that tests your strength and makes you sweat.
- ❖ Thanks for a fast car with good brakes.
- ❖ Thanks for hot showers and sudsy soap.
- ❖ Thanks for wonderful children and their wonderful children.
- ❖ Thanks for a difficult job that brings incredible fulfillment.
- ❖ Thanks for the integrity, professional excellence and commitment of my teammates.
- ❖ Thanks for the indescribable joy of walking down the street as the free citizen of a democracy.
- ❖ Thanks for those who have gone before and what they accomplished.
- ❖ Thanks for the honor of being part of a team that is pursuing a noble quest.
- ❖ Thanks for the knowledge that this list of thanks could go on and on.

My cup runneth over...

FROM THE DESK OF LT. GEN. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL, JR.

About the Roundup

The *Roundup* is a monthly magazine-style employee newspaper containing feature stories about JSC people and projects, as well as key Center and Agency messages. Editorial space is limited in the *Roundup*.

- ❖ Story ideas must be submitted at least two months in advance to allow for placement on the editorial calendar, as well as research, writing, editing and printing
- ❖ The *Roundup* editorial staff considers solid story ideas highlighting news-making JSC offices and people
- ❖ When space permits, the publication also recognizes national award recipients and recaps recent Center-wide events
- ❖ While appreciated, not all submitted story ideas can be used
- ❖ The *Roundup* accepts no advertising, meeting notices, event announcements or Swap Shop listings

To submit a story idea to the *Roundup*, or for distribution questions, please write to roundup@ems.jsc.nasa.gov or call (281) 244-NEWS (6397).

About CyberSpace Roundup

Because of the *Roundup*’s limited space and lengthy lead-time, most news is distributed through the *CyberSpace Roundup*. This is an online employee communications tool located at <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/roundup/> that works in tandem with the print *Roundup*.

Because it is updated each workday, the *CyberSpace Roundup* provides timely information about upcoming events and local award recipients, as well as meeting times and short JSC-related features.

- ❖ *CyberSpace Roundup* submissions should be sent to the editor by 8 a.m. at least two days prior to the desired publication date
- ❖ Articles must be JSC or NASA-related – no community announcements will be accepted
- ❖ Articles must be complete when submitted to the editor
- ❖ There is a 350-word limit
- ❖ One photo may be submitted with each article
- ❖ The editor has the right to edit copy or decline inappropriate submissions

Please submit your *CyberSpace Roundup* announcements to roundup@ems.jsc.nasa.gov. Please specify in the subject line the item is for the *CyberSpace Roundup* so it can be correctly routed.



JSC readies for Core Financial “go live”

With October’s Core Financial “go live” at Marshall Space Flight Center and Glenn Research Center, NASA has fulfilled its longstanding goal of implementing a state-of-the-art financial application. Here at Johnson Space Center, some 60 Core Financial team members have been working diligently for the last several months to ensure our own successful implementation in February 2003. Once JSC goes live on the software, there will be more than 1,000 Core Financial end-users.

“I have been really impressed with the way organizations from around the Center have collaborated to help make this a success. The project team could not do it without everyone pitching in,” said Randy Gish, JSC Procurement Director.

The Core Financial module is the “backbone” of the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP) – an Agency-wide effort to redesign and modernize NASA’s financial and administrative systems and processes. It will improve NASA’s fiscal accountability by delivering more reliable and accurate management information – critical if NASA is to achieve its strategic goals and retain its position as one of the country’s most forward-thinking federal agencies.

Core Financial is larger and more complex than any of the IFMP modules to date. It provides timely, consistent and reliable information for management decisions and creates an accounting and budgeting structure to support full-cost management. It facilitates improved information exchange and serves as the technical foundation for NASA’s e-Commerce and e-Government initiatives.

“This has been an enormous task for the team here at JSC – no other administrative activity has had the scope and impact of Core Financial. It feels good to finally see the fruits of our labors,” said John Beall, JSC Chief Financial Officer. “Center management and the JSC Steering Committee have made this a priority. They have supported us every step of the way with the necessary resources and by communicating the importance of this project.”

GETTING READY FOR CORE FINANCIAL

As JSC approaches the February 2003 “go live” date, many employees have been receiving communications about how to prepare for the new systems, processes and roles that Core Financial brings. Below is a summary of the Center’s Core Financial Training, which is based on standard SAP (the software behind Core Financial) roles. Those 1,000-plus employees who will be Core Financial users are being directed to training based on roles to which they have been “mapped” by their managers.

- ◆ SAP Navigation gives end-users a basic understanding of SAP 4.6 navigational skills prior to the instructor-led training. This course, available since October, must be completed before taking the instructor-led or Web-based training.
- ◆ Instructor-led training emphasizes interactive discussions, hands-on practice and exercises. Available Nov. 18, 2002, through Feb. 14, 2003.
- ◆ Web-based training is designed with multiple modules to allow an end-user to direct his/her own learning. Available Nov. 18, 2002, via NASA’s intranet.
- ◆ The Online Quick Reference tool provides end-users with procedures, job aids and other necessary help content via the Internet. Available Nov. 18, 2002.

Questions about JSC’s Core Financial Training should be directed to Brad Mudgett at x38428 or Katherine Bishop at x38732.

BUDGET FORMULATION

The next IFMP implementation effort at JSC is Budget Formulation – another significant module that encompasses bottoms-up formulation of institutional, program, enterprise and Agency-level budget formulation requirements. When Phase One of the Budget Formulation Project goes live in July 2003, it will support budget development, advocacy, internal/external reporting and full cost budgeting and management. In addition, the module will transmit budget information to the Core Financial system to establish full cost accounting controls. The content, form and accessibility of budget information will support real-time management decisions.

Budget Formulation will facilitate:

- ◆ Service pool planning
- ◆ Workforce planning
- ◆ Center Program Operating Plan submissions and phasing plans
- ◆ NASA budget aggregation
- ◆ NASA budget submission and pass back process with OMB and Congress

CHANGING THE WAY NASA DOES BUSINESS

IFMP is more than just a change in information technology – IFMP is also a change in the way we understand our business, organizations and roles. In implementing IFMP, we will re-evaluate our business and develop ways to take advantage of new capabilities. The IFMP Office is currently working with Centers and Enterprises to help them understand the benefits of IFMP to their current operations – thus helping the Agency achieve its goals as set forth in its strategic plan and in the President’s Management Agenda.

For more information on IFMP here at JSC, visit the following Web site:

<http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/org/la/cfo/ifm/>